

that we are under the power and influence of Christ's providence.

But there are some men who are in the habit of thinking they could rule this world better than Christ rules it. Men who deny the providence of Christ or that there is a God, they are mistaken, and Robert Ingersoll, as did others of his fellowship, will, when the cold and icy hand of death is placed upon his frame of clay, say, God have mercy on me. We dare not deny the providence of God or the ruling power of Jesus church in the world.

To prove that Jesus has a supreme and kingly ruling power in the world, we need only to take a retrospective view of the rapid progress of Christianity. His softening, civilizing and divine influence has caused heathen and barbarous nations to repent of their heathenish manners, and to become nations of enlightenment, and of high literary and religious attainments. If Jesus Christ has not a supreme and uplifting power in the universe, what cause has wrought the effects that characterize the enlightened portions of God's footstool?

What cause is it that helps us to reach out, and seize hold on God who raises us out of superstition and sin, into a higher state of civilization, morality and spirituality? Friends! can we resist ascribing all to the providence, the ruling power of a risen, divine and loving Savior?

Among the last words of the Son of God, before that great concourse of angels surrounded him, were, all power is given to me in heaven and in earth. We may say there are many who have no opportunities to know God, or Christ, or to be good.

I am not afraid half so much for those who have been in the twilight and darkness all their lives, and who seem as far as we know, to go down to the grave with the burden of unforgiven sin upon them. We have only to leave them with the Savior and their redeemer, who doeth all things well.

But I do fear the destiny of those, who know the Gospel and do not obey it, who knew of the words, go and preach the Gospel to such as know not God, and make disciples of them. Such persons will be met with the just judgment of a just God. Let us then lend our energies in the uprooting of superstition and sin.

III.

But there is another matter upon which a cloud seems to hide Jesus from us, that is unbelief hides the reality of his love. Is there one under the sound of my voice, who, unless you are absolutely thoughtless or void of feeling, has not had moments when your faith was so puny and weak,

that you had come to the conclusion that God had forsaken you, and when you were almost hardened against God? You thought he was not kind to you, and did not care for you as he did for others. You thought he had deprived you of your proper stay, which was the source of your joy and dignity in the world, and you could do nothing but sit down and murmur. It was a cloud of unbelief or little faith, that was hanging darkly o'er you. But when the unchanging love of Jesus came upon you and bade the cloud depart, your life was made bright by the shining forth of the sun from behind the cloud. God only sent this cloud because he loved you so, not because he did not love you at all. These clouds come in God's providence because he loves you, for whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth. Can we not realize more and more the tenderness, the unchangeableness the pitifulness of God's love. It is easier for the sun to fall from heaven than God's love to fail those who trust him. God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believed on him might not perish but have everlasting life. The matchless Christ, was in his boundless love, ready to come to a world contaminated with sin, and offer himself a sacrifice for the people.

After all these manifestations of his boundless love, people submit to satan's call, and allow the cloud of unbelief to hide the Son of God from their view.

O for more faith and knowledge to aid us to realize more fully the reality of his love. Then may we labor to remove the cloud of ignorance, superstition, sin and unbelief, that we may become more familiar with Christ as to the fact of his being, as to his providence and the reality of his love.

CONCLUSION.

God has revealed to us through Jesus Christ a salutation to the problem, how dispel these clouds? It is only by the way of the cross that we can solve the problem. The rule is simply and easily followed, simply faith in, and obedience to the words of Jesus.

Peter in a notable speech in the temple in Jerusalem, intimated that a cloud of ignorance hid the divinity of Christ from those who killed him. Therefore, through ignorance they killed the Son of God. But he gives a simple way of causing this cloud depart. "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." Or according to the R. V., Repent and turn from your evil ways and do good, that the cloud wherewith Jesus is hidden from your sight may depart.

Blessed is he, when the intervening sky is clear betwixt him and the immaculate Son of God.

For in that individual's life will shine forth an evidence of Christ as to the "fact of his being, results of his providence, and the glory of his love.

PREPARE TO MEET GOD.

CARRIE BURGER.

There are many reasons why we should prepare to meet God. It is his will that we should prepare to meet him. He would not have one soul perish. Let us think. Which way are we going? Are we going the straight and narrow way that leads to heaven, or are we going downward to eternal death and woe?

Death is on every hand. We do not know how soon we shall be called to die. How many are called away without an hours warning, prepared or unprepared. There are so many young people that are going on in their sinful way, not heeding the word of God. How many warnings they have. How many golden opportunities they are letting go by not heeding them until it is too late. The golden moments are passing. Let us not spend the best part of our life in sin. Let us remember that the young may die as well as the old. Are we prepared? Let us accept Christ while we are young, and then when we are old we can be glad that we spent our youthful days in serving the Lord.

"To-day if ye hear his voice harden not your hearts." Hebrews 3: 7, 8. For in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. God has a beautiful home in heaven. Angels are there, and many of our friends are there. Oh, do we not want to meet them again?

The gate of heaven is open to all. There is a way to reach that beautiful home.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me." St. John 14: 6. He is the only way. "For there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." Acts 4: 12.

"God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." St. John 3: 16. "Though your sins be as scarlet they shall be as white as snow." Isa. 1: 18.

How can we be happy in serving Satan when we think of that beautiful home, and our friends there which we shall never see if we do not serve the Lord. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. Mark 16: 16. Washed in the baptismal wave let us sing:

"In my hand no price I bring,
Simply to the cross I cling."

In that great day when the Lord shall come with all his beautiful angels let us be prepared and ready to meet Him.

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